**Worksheet: Analyzing Journal Article**

**Please read the assignment guidelines on Moodle, choose 1 journal article relevant to your literature review, and answer the following questions. If you need help, I’ve put extra resources at the bottom of this document under “Resources for Students.” This assignment is due on Wednesday, May 27th by 11:59pm.**

**Your name:** **Date:**

**Journal Article Title:**

**Authors:**

**Journal Title:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Step 1. What is the purpose/hypothesis/aim/objective of the study?** | |
| 1. Write down the exact statement in which the authors describe what they were testing. (Hint: This information may be provided in the article as a purpose statement or as a hypothesis). Include quotation marks around the exact wording and indicate page number(s). |  |
| 1. Now describe the purpose of the study(as you understand it) in your own words. |  |
| 1. What was the “gap” in the research that the authors were trying to fill by doing their study? |  |
| **Step 2. What is/are the major finding(s) of the study?** | |
| 1. Make some notes about the authors’ major conclusions or findings as written in the article. Include quotation marks whenever you use their exact wording and indicate page number(s). This response can be a bulleted list and does not need to be written in full sentences. |  |
| 1. Now write those conclusions (as you understand them) in your own words. |  |
| **Step 3. How did the authors test their hypothesis?** | |
| 1. Briefly summarize the main steps or measurements that the authors used in their methods. Try to explain in your own words as much as possible. |  |
| 1. Do the authors suggest any problems or limitations with their methodology? Do you see any problems or limitations with their methodology? |  |
| 1. How did the authors analyze their data? What test(s) did they use? |  |
| **Step 4. How reliable are the results?** | |
| 1. Do the authors suggest any problems with the study that could lead to unreliable results? |  |
| **Step 5. Based on your analysis, are the claims made in this journal article accurate?** | |
| 1. Do the conclusions made (about the results) by the author make sense to you? Are the conclusions too broad or too narrow based on what was actually done in the study? |  |
| 1. Based on the accuracy of the methodology and the reliability of the results as described in Steps 3 and 4, do you think the conclusions can be believed? Why? |  |
| **Step 6. What is the importance/relevance of this scientific work?** | |
| 1. Write (in your own words) the significant contributions of the experimental work in this journal article as reported by the authors. |  |
| 1. b. How is this work relevant for what you want to say in your literature review? What does it add? How can it be used? |  |
| **Step 7. How would you summarize this article?** | |
| 1. Write a one-sentence summary for each section in the article (Introduction, Materials & Methods, Results, Discussion, etc.) This should form a cohesive paragraph. |  |

**Resources for Students:**

* If you’re struggling with plagiarism and paraphrasing, then refer to the University of Guelph’s online “[Paraphrasing](https://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/sites/default/files/paraphrase.pdf)” module.
* If you’re having trouble locating scientific articles, then you can also check out the University of Guelph’s [in-depth walkthrough](https://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/sites/default/files/STAO_research_module.pdf) for finding such sources. Although this presentation/PDF focuses closely on the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), many of the tips and tricks are applicable to various databases such as Google Scholar and those you can access through the NCSU library.
  + Our incredible librarians at NCSU will often go above and beyond the call of duty to help you find relevant information for a project or better understand how to use their databases. Don’t be afraid to ask them for help! They even do remote consultations where they provide one-on-one assistance online and by phone. In this consultation, they can help you with conducting research, finding resources, learning a new skill, and other library-related needs. Contact info for the library can be found [here](https://www.lib.ncsu.edu/askus).